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DRAMAtical Murder re:code - Morphine Route; Part 11 Translation

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SUMMARY

Revealing the truth.

- Aoba -

- ... me -

- ... Come -

- Come to me -

Aoba

...

After returning from the depth of that world, I slowly open my eyes.

The migraine that had been bothering me earlier is gone. I'm exhausted from head to toe so I wouldn't say that I've completely recovered but my body feels light.

The me now is... if I am to put it strictly, it's different from the Aoba from before.

... Just that, there's one more thing that's not enough.

I wake from my bed, taking small, wavering steps towards the corner of the room, where my bag is located.

I hold it up, pulling the fastener open.

Aoba

Ren...

I take the blue furry item out of the bag and activate it, a pair of black eyes look at me.

Ren
Good morning, Aoba.

Aoba
... Ugh.

The nostalgic voice has tears accumulating in my eyes.

Aoba
Good morning, Ren.

Ren
Have you returned?

Aoba
Yeah. Just few moments ago.

“Reason”, “Desire”, “Restraint”. When the three of us are combined, we are able to obtain a balance of mental state with “Aoba”.

But, Ren, who’s “Restraint”, still has his conscious synchronized with the AllMate.

That’s why he wasn’t able to move when the AllMate was being shut down.

Because of that, I had to duplicate a conscious for “Restraint” so that we could talk to each other.

Now, if I am to activate the AllMate, and synchronize my conscious with Ren... with “Restraint”, he should be able to know everything that has happened in my head just now.

Ren
I remember my primary responsibility now. My responsibility as “Restraint”.

Aoba
...Yeah.

Ren
Does Aoba remember everything that has happened in the tower since you came here?

Aoba
Not precisely, but I’ve got a brief idea.

Last time... I couldn’t make sense of my own conscious before I came to the tower, I was afraid of the Scrap “Desire” possesses.

Thanks to that, I don't really have the memories of myself when "Desire" took the surface.

But now... I can clearly feel "Desire"'s presence in me.

And also, I can feel "Restraint"'s presence, who had just remembered of who he really is, by my side.

The memories from when I joined Morphine are all vague and suggestive, I couldn't remember every detail of it.

But, I could somehow understand... what I've done here.

Those are definitely not things that should be forgiven. Even when my memories aren't clear, everything happened because of me.

That's why, I will never dismiss them, I'll accept all of them as part of the truth and above all... I will think about what I should do next.

With a new resolution, I take careful, unstable steps out of the room.

When "I" talked with "Desire" and "Restraint", the last thing I heard was...

Sei's voice.

- ... *Come* -

- ... *Come to me* -

He said that.

The voice that I've been hearing all this while is Sei.

I'm reminded of his small body the last time I saw him.

... I'll definitely go and see you.

Then, I'll save you.

But, there's another person that I should save first.

That's why, Sei.

Please wait for a bit more.

I can't leave him alone.

I need to... save him now, immediately.

I walk out of my own room, rushing towards the room beside mine.

But, Mizuki isn't there.

Morphine shouldn't have any activities today, he should be somewhere in the tower then.

Before I headed out to look for Mizuki, I went back to my own room and explained the situation to Ren.

I wanted to bring Ren along but now, in this tower, I'm still part of "Morphine". I can't be bringing Ren around like this.

That's why, I had Ren waiting in the room.

No one can enter the upper floors without a card. That means, Mizuki should still be somewhere around here.

With that assumption, I search all over the basement, but he's not in the big room where all the Morphine members gather, nor is he in the warehouse.

I search everywhere that I thought Mizuki would be, and finally, I come to the parking basement.

I suspect that he might not be in the tower anymore but I decide that I should at least check out the parking basement first before I attempt to head out of this place.

There are not many cars in the parking basement so it's not hard for me to look around. But, it's a huge space so it'll take time for me to check in every corner.

Aoba
Where did he go...

I can't call his name to look for him either.

The longer I search, the firmer I believe that he might not be here after all.

But then, that would also mean that I've totally lost all the clues of where he could be.

Should I go back and wait...

Mizuki wasn't acting like himself the last time I spoke to him. That's because he's gradually getting out of Morphine's brainwashing.

It's good that he's slowly coming back to himself. But, the Mizuki now is confused between two of his conscious - "Desire" and "Reason" - an aftermath of the brainwashing.

It's natural for anyone to be confused if two conscious appear all of a sudden in their head.

Humans live with the assumption that they only have one conscious after all, of course he'd be confused over which option to listen to.

I cannot leave Mizuki in that condition.

Mizuki has willpower way stronger than anyone else. That's how he managed to escape my Scrap after all.

But, that's also precisely why... only because his willpower is so strong that it'd be a bigger burden for him to sustain when he has to deal with two conscious.

I wonder if he's trying to settle things by himself, if he's suffering all by himself?

Aoba
Mizuki...!

I run around the wide parking basement, looking into every corner my eyes can capture...

To be honest, it's a bit tough for me to be running around like this when my energy is critically depleted. Even so, I keep searching, wondering where he could be...

Aoba
Ha, haa...

He might not be here. And, when I consider exactly that...

Aoba
...!

I hear a soft sound of something moving.

I locate the source of the sound, then walk carefully towards it.

In one corner of the parking basement, behind where a big pillar stands...

In between the wall and the pillar sits a shadow.

Aoba
Mizuki!

I can't be wrong. It's Mizuki.

I run anxiously towards him, looking at his face.

Mizuki hugs his head, his arms tremble ever so slightly, then slowly turning his face.

Mizuki
... Aoba...?

Aoba
Mizuki, are you okay?

Mizuki
... Aoba...

Mizuki look up at me, his face twists in a torturous manner.

Mizuki
... I, don't know what is going on, I... What I want to do, what am I thinking...

Mizuki
I should be very happy to have joined Morphine but... there's a part of me who thinks that this isn't something that I should be doing too... I... I'm...

Aoba
... Mizuki.

I grab onto him, his eyes meet mine.

Mizuki's eyes portray of obvious fear and terror. But, the emptiness that is the hint of a controlled person is non-existent in those gaze of his.

As I thought, he's slowly getting out of himself.

I grasp onto Mizuki's shoulders, looking him straight in the face.

... For a split second, a memory from the past flashes through the corner of my head.

The memory of when I wanted to save Mizuki, but ended up failing Scrap...

Can I really, save Mizuki?

I might fail again.

There's no guarantee that it'll go well this time.

... But.

This time, it's different from the last.

When I did it the last time, I didn't have the confidence to save Mizuki. I was insecure when it comes to Mizuki, and above all, I didn't have confidence towards myself.

But now...

If it's now, when I have accepted everything of myself, then...

Aoba

I'll make sure to make it work. ... So please, lend me your strength.

I whisper at the other "me".

I'll save Mizuki, Koujaku and the others and Granny as well, and also... Sei too.

I'll save everyone, and we'll all get out of Platinum Jail together.

... I need to do it for that to happen.

Aoba

Mizuki, look into my eyes.

Mizuki

...

Aoba

I'll go inside of you now.

Aoba

Please accept me, Mizuki.

Aoba

I'll - destroy you.

Aoba

...

Pulling myself out of Mizuki's world, we return to reality.

I interfered with Mizuki's conscious, destroying the chain on Mizuki that is Morphine.

I was certain that I have managed to do that.

So, it should be fine now.

Aoba

... Mizuki.

When I call his name, I stare at Mizuki's face the way I did before I Scrapped him.

Mizuki shakes his head lightly, slowly looking up again.

Mizuki

...

When he looks me in the eyes...

All the emptiness and terror that were once there were gone.

Mizuki

... Aoba.

Mizuki looks at me carefully, then he smiles, happy.

Mizuki

... Thank you.

Aoba

... Thank God.

... He's back.

The Mizuki from Dry Juice... the Mizuki before he joined Morphine is back.

Seeing Mizuki's smile, the tension leaves my body, relief washes all over me.

But, this is not the time to relax yet.

Aoba

Mizuki, can you stand?

Mizuki

Yeah.

Aoba

Now we'll save the others,... ugh.

When I try to stand, a sudden dizziness rushes up to my head, so I press my hand against the wall to support myself.

Damn it... I'm more exhausted than I thought I am.

Mizuki

Are you okay.... woah.

Mizuki seems to be in the same situation as me, when he stands, he falls, almost collapsing onto me.

Our shoulders hit against each other, we look at each other with a bitter smile.

Aoba

Both you and I are too weak, it seems.

Mizuki

Seems like it. We've never eaten anything after all. Especially recently, I don't even know what I'm thinking anymore, I can't understand what was happening.

Aoba

Me too. I haven't been eating anything too ... Oh.

Supporting each other by the shoulders, we start walking.

Aoba

Can you walk?

Mizuki

Yeah.

Mizuki

... Erm, Aoba.

Aoba

Hm?

Mizuki

Can we eat something in the room? Something light is fine. Even if we want to do something, these weak bodies of ours would definitely not be able to be of much use.

Aoba

... You're right.

To be honest, I'm very anxious now. But, like what Mizuki said, even if we want to do something we wouldn't be able to thanks to the situation we have landed ourselves in. It's way too insensible if we rush into things now.

Mizuki

Then, while we're at it... I'd like to talk to you too.

Aoba

... Sure.

There are a lot of things I want to talk with him too.

Things about me, and also about Mizuki.

Even though the days I spent in Platinum Jail weren't long, but a lot of things had been happening indeed.

I grasp onto Mizuki for support, and with Mizuki gripping onto me at the same time, we leave the parking basement.

I don't really eat so there's no food at all in my room. In the end, we decided to take some light meals in Mizuki's room instead.

Even so, there's nothing that we could really call nutritious, just energy bars and some candy bars and some water; it's just enough for our weak bodies, I guess.

Mizuki sits on the bed, slowly crunching on his bar as he drinks, his body seems to be gradually regaining its composure with the intake of food and water.

I might be hungrier than I expected myself to be.

Mizuki

... Haa. Food is important, huh? Eating this amount makes no difference if we are to eat a lot of these or just a little.

Aoba

Yeah.

Mizuki

I want to eat more but I'll become sleepy if I continue eating.

Aoba

I'm already feeling it. I'm so tempted to roll onto the bed now.

Mizuki

Haha, that's true.

With our random small talks, Mizuki falls silent all of a sudden. I guess it's about time we enter our main topic.

Both of us keep to ourselves, waiting for the other to start. Mizuki looks at me with a stern look on his face.

Mizuki

... Aoba. Let's organize our situation now for a bit.

Aoba

Sure.

Mizuki

First of all... I was deceived by the people from Morphine, then my entire team was captured. And then they most likely altered our memories too.

Mizuki

After that, for some reason... I, became weird, right?

Aoba

Do you remember?

Mizuki

I can remember some parts of it. But all that I can remember is the fact that I became part of Morphine and that's about it.

Mizuki

Thanks to that, everyone in the team... has to face that kind of cruel treatment, to be unable to think for themselves anymore...

Mizuki frowns, he seems to be in pain.

Mizuki

But, you... used some kind of power, and saved me, right?

Aoba

... yeah.

Mizuki

Thank you.

Without any sort of suspicions, Mizuki thanks me. I lose my words. Crouching a tad, I bite on my lower lip.

Aoba

... I'm not in a position to receive this thank from you.

Mizuki

What do you mean?

Aoba

I, once... I wanted to save you, but it failed.

Mizuki

Huh...?

Aoba

When you kidnapped Granny, when you was about to do something, I used my power on you...

Aoba

But, I couldn't save you. And even then, I... was brought here too.

Mizuki

...

Mizuki looks at me with an indistinct expression, then slowly opens his mouth.

Mizuki

I can somehow remember that. You appeared in my dream... it's a weird feeling, that's probably it, right?

Aoba

Yeah.

Mizuki

If you're brought here too... Were you being altered and became weird too?

Aoba

I'm...

I couldn't continue my words.

It makes me nervous thinking about what I'm going to say next, it's a bit hard to breathe.

I don't know what Mizuki would think of me.

But... I need to tell him.

Aoba

...I'm, it's not that I became weird. I'm like this from the beginning.

Mizuki

From the beginning?

Aoba

Yeah. ... What I'm about to say now might be very unbelievable, or rather... you might think that I'm hallucinating but... I hope you could listen to me until the end.

With my careful words, Mizuki nods quietly.

I take a deep breath to ease the tension in me, then continue my words.

Aoba

There are three "me"s inside me. One of them is the me who is talking to you now. The other me is the one moving around as one of Morphine.

Aoba

The last one would never surface but he plays a part to restrain me... he's, how should I say.

Aoba

The power I used on you... the power we called Scrap, belongs to the me who moved around a Morphine member.

Mizuki

... in other words, something like multiple personalities?

Aoba

That's not quite right. Those are not personalities that function as a totally different person as me, all of them are me.

Aoba

There would be situations when I'd lean more towards one of the personalities... for example, when I become more aggressive than usual.

Mizuki

Ah, you mean when you moved around as part of Morphine?

Aoba

Yeah.

Mizuki

You yourself, erm... when you switch between different "Aoba", would you know what you're doing then?

Aoba

I didn't know, not until now. Because I rejected myself.

Mizuki

You, rejected yourself...?

Aoba

I always thought that the other more aggressive me wasn't a good person. And the fact that he owns this power...

Aoba

But, in the end, no matter how different our personalities could be, all of them are me... I never knew about that, and just like that, I kept rejecting myself.

Aoba

Then, thanks to that, the more aggressive me started to surface; he's the kind of person who wouldn't bother to destroy everything if he's able to suppress them.

Mizuki

...

Aoba

When I speak about it this way it sounds like I have various conscious but it's not like that at all.... It happened because I needed to protect myself that my conscious are separated in this way.

Mizuki

Separated to, protect yourself?

Aoba

Yeah. In order to shoulder the pressure I received when I was small, I shattered the conscious into two so that they could shoulder the burden with me.

Aoba

They're all me, so even when we're separated into three we should be thinking about the same thing anyway. That we have to do this so that we could protect ourselves.

Aoba

But then, before we knew it, we have forgotten about it.

Aoba

Because I've been rejecting part of myself all this while, frustration started to stem within me, something like that...

Mizuki

...It's a difficult topic, I see.

Aoba

Yeah. Anyway, if I was able to save you back then, this might not have happened. ... I'm really, sorry.

Mizuki

... no, it's not your fault. The reason why I was being controlled by Morphine was because my heart was weak.

Aoba

Mizuki...

Mizuki

Rhyme becomes a trend, and I got anxious over how more and more people are quitting Rib to join Rhyme...

Mizuki

I keep thinking if everyone would eventually abandon Rib and go over to Rhyme, and thanks to that, I can't even bring myself to trust my own team members anymore.

Aoba

But, ever since I came here, I've... also been saying a lot of rude things to you...

Mizuki

Yeah.... but I don't mind that either. I wasn't normal anyway. Rather, I thought it was fine that way.

Aoba

...? What is?

Mizuki

You always looked pissed when we first met, right? You were always fighting, and if you found something you didn't like you'd always speak rudely about it too.

Aoba

That's...

Mizuki

So to be honest, when you first came here, I wasn't at all shocked to see you like that. Rather, it felt nostalgic even.

Aoba

...

Mizuki

Ever since you changed your mindset, you became easier to speak to, it makes me wonder what's the deal with you from before and that's how I noticed you're actually a very nice guy.

Mizuki

I don't mind the you from before too, though.

... Now that he mentioned it, he's right.

When I think about it, my attitude towards Mizuki has never once changed.

When I was "Desire", I tend to jump into dangerous situations and I'd tend to speak rudely too but, Mizuki was never angry towards me.

All he did was saying things like 'I can't talk to you today too, huh?' and eventually he'd forget about it. When I thought he wouldn't want to come close to me anymore, he'd appear in front of me a few days later, with that smile on his face.

It's a bit annoying when he kept pestering me to join Rib but thanks to his non-changing attitude, I also started to slowly but surely trust him.

"I need you."

Those are the words he told me when he was still being controlled by Morphine.

I thought he was aiming at my "power". Like Toue.

But...

Now that I think about it, Mizuki said the same words to me in the past too.

That “he needs me”.

Mizuki

So, it’s fine to be like that once a while too, no? To act aggressively and to let yourself loose. Everyone has that moment when they need to release their anger once a while as well.

Aoba

How tolerant can you be?

Mizuki

... Eh?

Mizuki

Ah...

Mizuki lifts a startling expression.

He most likely has noticed the change in me.

I’m “Desire” now. I’ve switched with “Reason”.

“Reason” was the one who said I could come out anytime I want, after all.

When we switch like this, I could only somehow make out what is happening on the surface.

That’s why I couldn’t make sense of everything “Reason” was talking to Mizuki but oh well, I guess I could somehow tell the gist of it despite so.

Aoba

That’s what people call being too nice to someone else, you know?

Mizuki

... Yeah.

Mizuki looks happy for some reason.

Mizuki

But it’s fine, right? To be too nice to someone else. Is it troubling you?

Aoba

Not really. But that personality would only do bad to you.

Mizuki

Maybe. But I don't care what others would say about me anyway. I don't think it's a bad thing myself. So I don't really mind it at all.

Aoba

You take it so lightly, I see.

Mizuki

Yeah. But me being this way makes it easier to get along with you, right?

For a second, I don't know how to respond to him.

Aoba

... Let's leave it at that, then.

Mizuki

Sure.

... After that, I feel the aggression sinking back down.

"Desire" has retreated, I guess?

I wonder what he said to Mizuki when he came out just now but when I look at Mizuki's face, it doesn't seem like he'd said anything weird.

I'm so thankful that Mizuki is so tolerant towards us.

When I thought about that, Mizuki chuckles all of a sudden.

Mizuki

... I see.

Aoba

What is it?

Mizuki

Nothing. I think that's good.

Aoba

...

... That smile of his is frustrating me.

I switch again, inching my face towards Mizuki.

Mizuki

...? What is it?

Aoba
Why are you laughing like that?

Mizuki
Huh?

It's kind of annoying. I want to hit him.

I stand from the bed, and am about to grab Mizuki on the chest.

...but.

Aoba
... ugh!

Is it because of the fact that my body has relaxed too much from resting? I trip on the leg of the bed.

Mizuki
...! Oi, are you okay?

I wanted to hit him but instead, I fall into his embrace.

When I look up, I could immediately see Mizuki's concerned face.

... Damn it.



If things don't go well it'll only fuel my anger worse so I encircle my arm around Mizuki's neck, aggressively pulling onto him.

I need to let him taste bitterness, at the very least.

With that thought, I push my face closer.

Mizuki
...!

Our lips lightly touch, Mizuki's smile is gone, he looks at me with a shocking pair of eyes.

... Serve you right.

With a relieved mood, I purposefully curve the corners of my lips higher.

Aoba
I-diot.

Mizuki
... Y-you... Suddenly, what...

Aoba
Nothing? It's an accident, an accident.

Mizuki
...

Mizuki looks at me with a relieved face.

That's not part of the plan but oh well.
I managed to catch him off guard anyway.

Aoba
How long do you plan to space out like that?

Mizuki
... Ah, yeah. You're right.

To regain his composure, Mizuki lets out a few soft coughs, his expression stiffens.

Mizuki
... Anyway, we'll return to what we were talking about. ... Is that okay?

Aoba
Yeah.

When I notice it, "Desire" has gone back in again.

I feel like I've done something to Mizuki...

He doesn't look like he minds it at all, perhaps it's nothing serious after all.

Mizuki

We're both back to normal now so it doesn't matter whose is in the wrong now. That aside, we need to think about what to do from now on.

Aoba

Yeah. ... We need to save everyone.

Koujaku, Clear, Noiz, Mink, Granny.

...Sei.

Everyone in Dry Juice and everyone who are affected by "Spirited Away", as many as we can...

We're leaving Platinum Jail together.

Aoba

...!

Mizuki

What is it? A mail?

Activating the Coil, I look at the mail.

The sender is "Captive Princess". It's the same mail as before.

The content is the same "Faster, come".

I thought it was a spam mail from before...

- *Come.* -

- *Come to me.* -

Aoba

... I'll go now.

Aoba

... Sei.

(□□□□□□□□ DRAMAtical Murder re:code [□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□] □□□□)